

## Arius and Athanasius

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the following year, and then Athanasius refused to attend. Not until 335 did Athanasius stand before his episcopal judges at Tyre.

Accompanied by some fifty of his suffragans, Athanasius had made the journey, only to find himself confronted by a packed council. All his bitterest enemies were there ; all the old unsubstantiated charges were resuscitated. His election was said to be uncanonical; he was charged with personal un-chastity and with cruelty towards certain Meletian bishops and priests; and, most curious of all, the ancient calumnies of \*' The Broken Chalice " and " The Dead Man's Hand " were revived and pressed, as though they had never been confuted. With respect to the latter charge, Athanasius enjoyed one moment of signal triumph. After his accusers had caused a thrill of horror to pass through the Council by producing a blackened and withered hand, which they declared to belong to the missing Bishop Ar-senius, who was supposed to have suffered foul play, Athanasius asked whether any of those present had known Arsenius personally. A number of bishops claimed acquaintance, and then Athanasius gave the signal for a man, who was standing by closely muffled in a cloak, to come forward. " Lift up your head ! " said Athanasius. The unknown did so, and lo! it was none other than Arsenius himself. Athanasius drew aside the cloak, first from one hand and then from the other. " Has God given to any man," he asked quietly, "more hands than two?" His enemies were silenced, but only for the moment. One of them, cleverer than the rest, immediately